

REMARKS

Claims 6-7, 19, and 20 are canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 8, 13, 14, 16, 21, 25, and 26 are amended.

New claims 30-43 are added to claim the invention in alternative language and are thought to be allowable over the cited art.

The Office Action fails to establish that Claims 1-29 are anticipated by US patent number 6,678,876 to Stevens et al. ("Stevens") under 35 USC §102(e). The rejection is respectfully traversed because the Office Action fails to show that all the limitations of the claims are taught by Stevens.

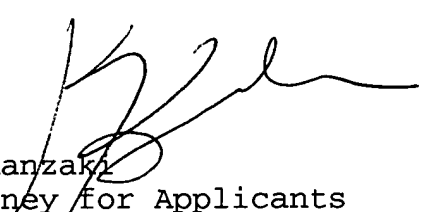
The independent claims as amended include limitations of recording a future cost slope value that is determined based on the cumulative routing cost divided by the distance. It is respectfully submitted that none of Stevens' cited teachings appear to mention the claimed aspects of "slope." The cited sections appear to mention cost, but not slope (see the rejection of claim 7 which cites Stevens' FIGs. 11 and 13 and col. 15, l. 53 - col. 16, l. 22). Since no use of a slope is apparent, the Office Action does not show that claims 1-29 are anticipated by Stevens.

As a general matter, Stevens is not thought to show or suggest the many limitations related to establishing future costs values for use in routing. For example, in establishing the future cost values with claim 30 of the present invention, each future cost value is stored in a location that is addressable as a function of a distance from the node from which the future cost value was determined to a pre-routing source node. During actual routing of a signal from a source node to a target node, the future cost values are thereby addressable by way of the distance from a node under consideration to the target node. Claim 30 makes clear that the future cost values are used in combination with cumulative cost values during routing, which further differentiates claim 30 from Stevens.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Amendments and Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

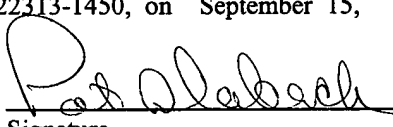
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patent, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on September 15, 2004.

Pat Slaback
Name



Signature